

REMARKS

Claims 11-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 17, 21, 24 and 28-30 are amended.

The Office Action objected to the disclosure based on the specification not including section headings and referring to claims by number. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. As a result, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 17 and 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The claims are amended to obviate the rejection. In light of the above, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Claimed Invention

An exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 11, is directed to a chilled goods support for a cooling device comprising a liquid crystal temperature display, wherein a supporting element of the chilled goods support acts as a thermal buffer to which the liquid crystal temperature display unit is fixed in a planar manner.

Another exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 21, is directed to a refrigerator wherein a supporting element of the chilled goods support acts as a thermal buffer to which the liquid crystal temperature display unit is fixed in a planar manner.

Another exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 29, is directed to a refrigerator wherein a supporting element of each of the multiple chilled goods supports acts as a thermal buffer to which its liquid crystal temperature display unit is fixed in a planar manner.

An object of the invention is to provide a cost effective and space-efficient way to prevent a temperature display from quickly changing the temperature displayed when the door of a refrigerator is opened. By using a supporting element of a chilled goods support as a thermal buffer to which the temperature display is fixed, a separate thermal buffer is not needed. This reduces the cost of production and saves space.

The Caldwell Reference

The Office Action rejected claims 11-13, 15, 21-23 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0122455 to Caldwell. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 11 and 21 include the feature of a supporting element of the chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer to which the liquid crystal temperature display unit is fixed in a planar manner.

In contrast, Caldwell does not disclose, or even suggest, a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit. The Office Action states that frame 22 of Caldwell acts as a thermal buffer, but does not explain how this is the case or point to any passage of Caldwell that discusses a thermal buffer for the display. Applicants could not find any reference in Caldwell to thermal buffers for a temperature display.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 22, 23 and 28 depend from either claim 11 or claim 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Caldwell does not disclose each and every feature of claims 11-13, 15, 21-23 and 28 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §102(b) is inappropriate. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) states that the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained. It is not apparent how Caldwell discloses a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit. And, the Office Action does not clearly explain how Caldwell discloses a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit. As a result, Applicants submit that the Office Action does not comply with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2).

Because claim 11 has not been amended to overcome the rejection based on Caldwell, and because the Office Action does not comply with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2), Applicants submit that the next Office Action should not be made final.

The Office Action rejected claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Caldwell does not disclose, or even suggest, a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit. The Office Action asserts that Caldwell discloses a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit, but does not allege that Caldwell suggests such a feature. This obviousness rejection only asserts that Caldwell suggests the features of claims 14 and 16 that are not in claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Caldwell does not teach or suggest the features of claims 14 and 16 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Caldwell Reference in view of the Hammarth Reference

The Office Action rejected claims 17 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0086474 to Hammarth et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Hammarth does not remedy the deficiencies of Caldwell.

As explained above, Caldwell does not teach or suggest the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit.

Indeed, the Examiner does not allege that Hammarth teaches or suggests the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit, as recited by claims 11 and 21, from which claims 17 and 24 respectively depend.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Caldwell and Hammarth does not teach or suggest the features of claims 17 and 24 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Caldwell Reference in view of the Paron Reference

The Office Action rejected claims 18-20, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,738,442 to Paron et al. Applicants

respectfully traverse the rejection.

Paron does not remedy the deficiencies of Caldwell.

As explained above, Caldwell does not teach or suggest the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit.

Indeed, the Examiner does not allege that Paron teaches or suggests the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit, as recited by claims 11 and 21, from which claims 18-20, 26 and 27 depend.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Caldwell and Paron does not teach or suggest the features of claims 18-20, 26 and 27 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Caldwell Reference in view of the Hammarth Reference and the Maritan Reference

The Office Action rejected claims 25, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell in view of Hammarth and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0222044 to Maritan et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Maritan does not remedy the deficiencies of Caldwell and Hammarth.

Claim 25 depends from claim 21.

Claim 29 includes the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit.

As explained above, the combination of Caldwell and Hammarth does not teach or suggest the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit.

Indeed, the Examiner does not allege that Maritan teaches or suggests the feature of a supporting element of a chilled goods support acting as a thermal buffer for a temperature display unit, as recited by claims 21 and 29, from which claims 25 and 30 depend.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Caldwell, Hammarth and Maritan does not teach or suggest the features of claims 25, 29 and 30 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 11-30. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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